

# WELFARE SERVICES FACT SHEET—2009

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THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

## Basic Principles

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints strive to follow the Savior's admonition to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison (see Matthew 25:35–36).
- The responsibility for each person's spiritual and temporal well-being rests first upon himself, second upon his family, and third upon the Church.
- When members and their families are doing all they can to provide for themselves and still cannot meet their basic needs, they may turn to their bishop for temporary assistance.
- The bishop, as a local minister, is in the best position to determine the nature and quantity of help required to meet the individual's or family's specific needs.
- Once a month, members of the Church go without food and drink for two consecutive meals and contribute a fast offering at least equal to the value of the two meals. Bishops then use the fast offerings to care for those in need.
- To assist bishops in helping members become more self-reliant, the Church has established storehouses, production projects, thrift stores, employment centers, and family services offices in many locations. Church members volunteer their time, talents, and skills to do much of the work in these facilities.
- The purpose of Church welfare assistance is to help people to help themselves. Recipients of these resources are given the opportunity to work, to the extent of their ability, for the assistance they receive.
- The Church also sponsors humanitarian relief and development projects around the world that benefit those of other faiths. These projects include emergency relief assistance in times of disaster and programs that strengthen the self-reliance of individuals, families, and communities.
- Hundreds of full-time volunteers with skills and experience in education, agriculture, social work, business, and medicine serve throughout the world as part of these humanitarian projects.

More information is available at [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).

## 2009 Statistics

Days of labor donated to Church welfare facilities	763,737
Employment and training placements	
U.S. and Canada	81,296
Internationally	103,273
Total number of:	
Storehouses	141
Home storage centers	102
Production projects	56
Processing facilities	25
Storage and distribution facilities	37
Employment resource centers	322
Deseret Industries thrift stores	43
LDS Family Services offices	78
Number of missionaries serving in Welfare Services	8,167
<u>Examples of missionary assignments</u>	
Managing employment centers	
Teaching English as a second language	
Teaching marriage and parenting skills	
Improving agricultural and medical practices	
Distributing clothing	
Supervising welfare projects and missionaries	
Number of major disaster assistance efforts (1985–2009)	198
<u>Recent examples</u>	
Samoa tsunami relief	2009
Philippines typhoon relief	2009
Indonesia earthquake relief	2009
Ethiopia famine relief	2008
Peru earthquake relief	2007–2009
Africa measles vaccination campaigns	2004–2009
Humanitarian assistance rendered (1985–2009)	
Cash donations	\$327.6 million
Value of material assistance	\$884.6 million
Countries and territories served	178
Food	61,892 tons
Medical supplies	13,920 tons
Clothing	89,296 tons
Educational supplies	5,965 tons
Hygiene, newborn, and school kits	10.3 million